

HUNTING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Big Island, Virginia

(Located on Route 122, 3 miles west of Big Island)

Bedford County, Virginia

May 18, 1952



AN EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE NEW CHURCH

Rev. E. S. Vaughn, Pastor



OUR CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, and the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions, to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings; faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, back-biting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy of speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principle of God's Word.

SERVICE OF DEDICATION
NEW BUILDING

May 18, 1952

MORNING SESSION

10:30 A.M.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Doxology

Invocation—Response by Choir

Hymn: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" No. 1

Scripture—Responsive Reading No. 515

Prayer

Announcements

Offering

Special by Choir

Hymn: "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord" No. 196

Message Col. A. H. Camden

Hymn: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" No. 209

Benediction

Response No. 313

Lunch—12:00 Noon

AFTERNOON SESSION

2:00 P.M.

Prelude

Hymn: "Lead On, O King Eternal"

No. 236

Invocation and Response

Scripture

Hymn: "The Church's One Foundation" (all stanzas) No. 406

Address of Welcome T. L. Gillaspie

Recognition of former members, visitors and oldest living members

Offering

Anthem: "Here in This House" Beethoven

Prayer

Service of Dedication (Congregation standing)

Minister: Blessing and Glory and Wisdom, and Thanksgiving
and Honor and Power and Might be unto our God forever
and ever

**People: Blessed be the Lord God who doeth wonderous things:
blessed be His Glorious name forever and let the whole earth
be filled with His Glory**

Minister: Being graciously prospered by the hand of God to
finish the work, which in His providence we are called upon
to perform.

**People: We do now with hearts overflowing with praise, joy
and gratitude solemnly dedicate this church**

Minister: To the Glory of God the Father, to the honor of
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to the praise of the Holy
Spirit, source of light and life

People: We dedicate this Church.

Minister: For the training of life in the Christian way, that
character may reflect the life of the master, to the nurture
of youth and the enrichment of the home,

People: We dedicate this Church.

Minister: To the pledging of ourselves to use our strength,
our means, our all for the welfare of mankind and the
Glory of God,

People: We dedicate this Church.

Prayer in unison: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ and our Father, we are conscious of the sacrifices
which have been made through the years by those who have
gone on before us, and our hearts are stirred by the blessed
memories this act of dedication creates in them. May we
find in this Service the inspiration and challenge to go
forward, dedicating ourselves anew to Thy service that Thy
name may be glorified forever. Amen.

Solo

Mrs. H. D. Blankenship

Sermon of Dedication

Rev. A. G. Carter

Prayer of Dedication

Response by Choir

Benediction

HISTORY OF HUNTING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

No systematic account of the 120 years the Hunting Creek Baptist Church has been organized can be produced as many of the church records have been lost. However, the following facts which have been collected from various sources do help to show how the spirit of Christ has been kept alive throughout the years.

As a result of a call from the Suck Spring Church in 1828, the Hunting Creek Church was organized in 1832, but it was not until 1839 that the deed to the land on which there was a log building was recorded. The deed reads thus "From Poindexter W. Mosby and Nancy, his wife to Howard Major, John Turpin and Moses Snead, Trustees, for use of Presbyterian, Baptist, Episcopalian, and Methodist, approximately 1 acre on which building stood at time of purchase." The deed refers to the building as the Hunting Creek Meeting House.

No record could be found as to when the log building was replaced by a frame building.

It seems apparent from the record of the original deed that the Hunting Creek Church is the mother of all the churches in this area regardless of the denomination.

In addition to the trustees named in the deed, records show that the following were connected with the early history of the church: C. B. Reynolds, Ben Milam, Jno. Milam, H. Evans, George Snead, T. M. Sanderson and M. W. Reed.

It is recorded that the Strawberry Baptist Association met at Hunting Creek in 1846.

In 1853 a membership of 90 was reported, 28 of whom were colored.

The first record of a Sunday School found was in 1870 with George Snead as superintendent and 25 scholars. Some of the former Sunday School superintendents were as follows: S. A. Major, Paul Penn, R. N. Hobson, T. N. Turpin, R. W. Camden, J. L. Gillaspie, Douglas Manley, R. H. Parks, J. S. Douglas, W. F. Tanner, Vernon Tomlinson and Thornton Gillaspie.

In 1879, 1900 and 1921, the Strawberry Association met at the Hunting Creek Baptist Church.

From the Hunting Creek Church clerk's minutes of October 1886 we find the following: "A letter was received from B. M. Page, J. B. Cox and B. F. Cox as committee of arrangements from Big Island asking the church to send her pastor and two delegates to sit in counsel with them to take into consideration the expediency of organizing a Baptist Church at that place on the 4th Sunday night in October 1886." During the next few years many of the Hunting Creek members united with the Big Island Baptist Church.

The first record of a Woman's Missionary Society was in September 1899. Mrs. W. B. James was president and there were 11 members.

In 1904 approximately 2 acres of land for a cemetery was purchased by Trustees J. L. Gillaspie, R. W. Camden and M. C. Parks from Ora M. Tooley.

From the clerk's record dating 1885-1908 we find that "brothers and sisters" were often "excluded" from the church for such offenses as "long absence and neglect of the church, profane language, drinking, dancing, disorderly walk, and unchristian conduct." They were restored only after publicly making satisfactory acknowledgements of their "wrong doing" and promising to try to do better.

Sunday School rooms were added to the building between 1921-1925.

The Centennial Celebration of the Hunting Creek Baptist Church was held in September 1932, while the Rev. J. Mack Franklin was pastor. Speakers of the day were Rev. W. S. Royall, R. W. Camden, Col. A. H. Camden, Dr. E. G. Gill and Miss Georgia T. Snead.

The church building was in need of repairs, and in April 1945, the church voted to start a church improvement fund, with Wade H. Tanner as treasurer of the fund.

In April 1946 the church voted to make only necessary repairs on the old church, and to build a new one. The motion called for "a red brick and cinder block building with basement for Sunday School and furnace." The building was not to be started until half of the estimated cost was in the hands of the treasurer.

In March 1948 the church decided to buy 3 acres of land to be cut up in additional cemetery lots. At this time the land on which the new church stands was purchased.

In January 1950 a motion was made and carried by the membership to go ahead with plans to build a new church. A building committee of approximately 40 members had previously been selected by the pastor to raise money and study plans for building. Thornton Gillaspie, chairman of this committee, selected seven from this committee to arrange for the construction of the building. This committee is composed of Robert Douglas, Chairman, Fred Rusher, Alvin Massie, Darwin Hensley, Gordon Tanner, Jacob Yoder and Wade Tanner.

Finally after bringing many matters to the attention of the church, and much careful planning, the ground for the building was broken on August 25, 1950.

By December 2, 1951 the building was nearing completion, and on that day a most impressive Cornerstone Service was held. Following Col. A. H. Camden's message delivered in the old church, the Rev. E. S. Vaughn, assisted by the clerk of the church and a member, laid the cornerstone.

The contract called for the sanctuary to be completed. The Sunday School partition walls in the basement along with landscaping and other outside work was left incomplete.

The building was accepted on December 30, 1951. On February 6, 1952, the Board of Deacons held the first meeting in the new church.

A greater part of the furniture in the sanctuary has been given as memorial gifts, with many others contributing to this fund, and the seating capacity is approximately 225.

The value of the church edifice, including furnishings, when completed is estimated to be about \$44,000. There is at present a debt of \$15,000.

The church enrollment now stands at 303. However, 96 of this number are non-resident members. The Sunday School has 169 members, the missionary organizations have an enrollment of 105, and the Baptist Training Union a membership of 72. Last year the Vacation Bible School had a total enrollment of 136.

As we dedicate the new Hunting Creek Baptist Church building, may we breath a prayer of gratitude to Our Heavenly Father, and ask Him to bless us as we labor together in His House.

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1.

FORMER PASTORS

According to the minutes of the Strawberry Association the former pastors of Hunting Creek Baptist Church are as follows: Wm. Harris, 1851-58; A. Eubank, 1859-67; T. B. Gatewood, 1868- ; Wm. Fisher, 1869-75; J. L. Lawless, 1876-80; F. M. Satterwhite, 1881- ; A. J. Reamy, 1882-83; W. M. Fisher, 1884-87; Jno. R. Fizer, 1888-89; R. B. Boatwright, 1890-91; J. G. Council, 1892-94; no pastor, 1895; J. P. Essex, 1896-97; W. B. James, 1898-1901; Dr. J. P. McCabe, 1902-04; W. S. Royall, 1905-06; W. E. Guy and John Guy, 1907-08; J. P. Luck, 1909-10; W. L. Hays, 1911-12; no pastor, 1913; C. K. Hobbs, 1914-17; no pastor, 1918; P. A. Anthony, 1919; no pastor, 1920; R. E. Brown, 1921-25; J. M. Franklin, 1926-37; E. S. Vaughn, 1938- .

FORMER CLERKS

Former clerks of Hunting Creek Baptist are as follows: G. E. Snead, 1851-63; B. M. Page, 1864-71; W. B. Thompson, 1872-83; S. A. Major, 1884-90; J. L. Gillaspie, 1891-95; T. Turpin, 1896; S. A. Major, 1897-98; M. L. Griggs, 1899-1902; F. O. Parks, 1903; J. L. Gillaspie, 1904-16; H. W. Tomlinson, 1917-18; L. J. Milam, 1919-24; Thornton Gillaspie, 1925.

FORMER TREASURERS

Former church treasurers from 1886 to date: T. N. Turpin, R. H. Parks, W. F. Tanner, 1907-46; Vernon Tomlinson, 1946- .

We are justly proud of Rev. Robert L. Camden, a former member, who is now an ordained Baptist minister.

FLOWERS

The flowers on the stands are courtesy of Quality Dairy Products, Inc., and Norfolk Avenue Dairy of Lynchburg, Va., those on the Communion Table courtesy of Lea's Garden Center of Bedford, Va., and those on the Baptistry courtesy of C. B. Sale, Florist, of Lynchburg, Va.



THE AUDITORIUM OF THE NEW CHURCH



THE OFFICIAL FAMILY OF THE CHURCH

BOARD OF DEACONS

Alvin Massie, <i>Chairman</i>	
J. E. Manley	J. E. Hughes
Cecil Camden	Hunter Massie
Robert Douglas	Mack Peters
Thornton Gillaspie	Wade Tanner
Norvell Hensley	Vernon Tomlinson
Earl Hughes	Jacob Yoder

CHURCH TRUSTEES

Cecil Camden	Wade Tanner	Vernon Tomlinson
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CHURCH OFFICERS

Thornton Gillaspie	<i>Clerk</i>
Vernon Tomlinson	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mrs. Eva S. Douglas	<i>Pianist</i>

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS

Thornton Gillaspie	<i>Superintendent</i>
Byron Massie	<i>Associate Superintendent</i>
Miss Sadie Gillaspie	<i>Secretary and Treasurer</i>
Miss Joyce Camden	<i>Pianist</i>

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION

Astor T. Tomlinson, *Director*

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Woman's Missionary Society.....	Mrs. E. S. Vaughn, <i>President</i>
Elizabeth Hale Society.....	Miss Sadie Gillaspie, <i>President</i>
Young Woman's Auxiliary.....	Mrs. Astor Tomlinson, <i>Leader</i>
Girl's Auxiliary.....	Mrs. D. L. Hensley, <i>Leader</i>
Royal Ambassadors.....	Mrs. Radford Massie, <i>Leader</i>
Sunbeams.....	Mrs. William C. Rice, <i>Leader</i>